Proposal to Discontinue Samjhauta Express

†3583. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have registered a protest with Pakistan on the issue of using ""Samjhauta Express", running between India and Pakistan, for smuggling arms, drugs and fake currency notes into India;

(b) if so, the reaction of Pakistan thereto and in case of negative response whether Government propose to discontinue the train; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (c) The Government of India have repeatedly expressed their concerns, including through official statements, relating to the use of Samhauta express by Pakistani agencies and unscrupulous elements in that country to push contraband, including fire arms, narcotics and counterfeit currency into India. Government are exercising due vigilance to eliminate the incidence of smuggling of contraband. There is no proposal to discontinue the Samjhauta Express which constitutes an important transport link for the peoples of the two countries.

USA's Warning to India Nuclear Programme

†3584. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether United States of America has warned India that if it wants to improve her relations with U.S.A. it will have to stop her nuclear weapons and missile programmes and the export of technologies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the response of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) No Sir.

(b) The United States has stated that India herself has the sovereign right to make decisions about what is necessary for the defense of India and its interests.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.